

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**

**James N. Hatten
District Court Executive
and Clerk of Court**

**2211 U.S. COURTHOUSE
75 SPRING STREET, SW
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3361**

404-215-1600

August 8, 2014



PUBLIC NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

**IN RE: Proposed Revisions To Local Rules For The United States District
Court - Northern District of Georgia**

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia is proposing changes in the following Local Rules:

- Local Rule 83.1B ATTORNEYS: ADMISSION TO PRACTICE BEFORE THE COURT
- Local Rule 26.2A DISCOVERY PERIOD

Full copies of the proposed changes to these referenced Local Rules are available at the public counter of each office of the Clerk of District Court and on the Court's public website at: www.gand.uscourts.gov.

The Court is soliciting comments from the public and the Bar on these proposed revisions.

Comments should be made in writing by September 8, 2014, to:

**James N. Hatten
District Court Executive and Clerk of Court
Room 2217, U. S. Courthouse
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3361**

Current **LR 83.1B** Language:

(1) Eligibility and Procedure. A non-resident attorney who is not an active member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia, but who is a member in good standing of the bar of any United States court or of the highest court of any State may apply in writing for permission to appear *pro hac vice*.

Applications for admission *pro hac vice* may be obtained from the clerk. The applicant shall state under penalty of perjury the applicant's (1) residence address, (2) office address, telephone number and facsimile number, (3) the courts to which admitted to practice and the dates of admission, and (4) a statement that the applicant is in good standing and eligible to practice in all courts to which admitted. Applications for admission *pro hac vice* must be accompanied by payment of a prescribed admission fee. A non-resident attorney will not be permitted to appear until the applicant's application for admission *pro hac vice* has been signed by the district judge to whom the case is assigned or by the district judge's courtroom deputy, if so authorized by the district judge.

Proposed **LR 83.1B** Language:

(1) Eligibility and Procedure. A non-resident attorney who is not an active member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia, but who is a member in good standing of the bar of any United States court or the highest court of any State must apply in writing for permission to appear *pro hac vice* in any case in which the attorney will appear in Court on behalf of a party, apply for fees, sign his or her name to a document filed with the Court, or otherwise substantially participate in preparing or presenting a case.

Applications for admission *pro hac vice* may be obtained from the clerk. The applicant shall state under penalty of perjury the applicant's (1) residence address, (2) office address, telephone number and facsimile number, (3) the courts to which admitted to practice and the dates of admission, and (4) a statement that the applicant is in good standing and eligible to practice in all courts to which admitted. Applications for admission *pro hac vice* must be accompanied by payment of a prescribed admission fee. A non-resident attorney will not be permitted to appear until the applicant's application for admission *pro hac vice* has been signed by the district judge or, in cases in which the parties have consented to a magistrate judge presiding, the magistrate judge to whom the case is assigned, ~~or by the district judge's courtroom deputy,~~ The presiding judge's courtroom deputy may sign the application if so authorized by the district judge.

Current **LR 26.2** Language:

A. Commencement; Length. The discovery period shall commence thirty (30) days after the appearance of the first defendant by answer to the complaint, unless the parties mutually consent to begin earlier. Discovery proceedings must be initiated promptly so that discovery is initiated and completed (including the filing of answers and responses thereto) within the time limitations of the discovery track to which the case is assigned.

The discovery tracks established in this court are: (1) zero (0)-months discovery period; (2) four (4)-months discovery period; and (3) eight (8)-months discovery period. A chart showing the assignment of cases to a discovery track by filing category is contained in Appendix F.

Proposed **LR 26.2** Language:

A. Commencement; Length. The discovery period shall commence thirty (30) days after the appearance of the first defendant by answer to the complaint, unless the parties mutually consent to begin earlier. In removed cases, the discovery period commences thirty days after the removed case is filed in this court if any defendant has appeared by answer to the complaint prior to removal. Discovery proceedings must be initiated promptly so that discovery is initiated and completed (including the filing of answers and responses thereto) within the time limitations of the discovery track to which the case is assigned.

The discovery tracks established in this court are: (1) zero (0)-months discovery period; (2) four (4)-months discovery period; and (3) eight (8)-months discovery period. A chart showing the assignment of cases to a discovery track by filing category is contained in Appendix F.